



MAZIE K. HIRONO
• A VOICE FOR HAWAII IN THE U.S. SENATE •

Teaching Asian Pacific American History Act (117th Congress)

Problem:

Despite numerous contributions to the development and enhancement of American life in various spaces, Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) individuals and communities, which includes Native Hawaiians, have largely been excluded or erased from American history for years. If not invisible, APIA groups are often pejoratively depicted as foreigners, instead of people who have lived in, and positively contributed to, this country for generations. Given the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes we have seen over the past few years, it is more critical than ever that we more accurately portray the many achievements and contributions of these communities, as well as the racism and prejudice that APIAs have endured for decades in schools across the country.

Bill summary:

The *Teaching Asian Pacific American History Act* would promote the teaching of Asian Pacific American (APA) history for high school students and teachers who enroll in the U.S. Department of Education's (ED's) American History and Civics Academies programs. This legislation would require non-profits that receive grants through the ED's American History and Civics Academies—programs that provide workshops to teachers and courses for students—to teach APA history as part of their curriculum. In doing so, this legislation would not only directly teach our high school students who enroll in these non-profit programs, but also encourage more K-12 teachers across the country to include APA history in their own classrooms. Specifically, the *Teaching Asian Pacific American History Act* would:

- Require the U.S. Department of Education's (ED's) American history and civics programs to include Asian Pacific American (APA) history as part of the Presidential and Congressional Academies for K-12 teachers and students; and
- Promote collaboration between grantees of ED's American history and civics programs and the Smithsonian Institution's Asian Pacific American Center to develop innovative programming for teachers and students.

Cosponsors: Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Ben Ray Luján (D-NM), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Tina Smith (D-MN), and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).

Endorsements: Jeremy Lin, professional basketball player; Stop AAPI Hate; Stop AAPI Hate Youth Campaign; National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA); Asian American Federation (AAF); National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF); Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF); Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC); National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA); OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates; Japanese American Citizens League (JACL); Fred T. Korematsu Institute; Indian Diaspora Council (IDC); the Council of Korean Americans; the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD); Teach For America – Asian American Pacific Islander Alliances; New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC); Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC); and United Chinese Americans (UCA).